



Northeast II Region Farm Labor

There were 35,000 hired workers on Northeast II Region farms and ranches the week of October 10, 2004, through October 16, 2004, up 3 percent from a year ago. States included in the Northeast Region II are Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Hours worked during the reference week averaged 41.2 compared to 38.5 the previous year.

Farm operators in the Northeast Region II paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.59 per hour during the October 2004 reference week, the same as a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.84 per hour, up 5 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$8.90 per hour compared with \$8.27 a year earlier.

In New Jersey, during the reference week, six days were suitable for field work. There was some rainfall across most of the state during the week, and there was a minor hail storm Saturday, October 16, 2004, in some southern localities. Soil moisture was rated 95% adequate and 5% short. Fieldwork activities during the week were harvesting field corn for grain, soybeans, fruit, vegetables, and planting cover crops. Field clean-up included pruning of peach trees, mowing, and discing.

At the U.S. level, farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.30 per hour, 25 cents higher than October 2003. There were 851,000 hired workers on farms across the nation, down 4 percent from a year earlier. The average number of hours worked during the reference week was 40.5 compared to 40.2 the previous year.

Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Northeast II Region and United States ^{1/}

Items	Northeast II ^{2/}			United States ^{3/}		
	Oct. 12-18, 2003	July 11-17, 2004	Oct. 10-16, 2004	Oct. 12-18, 2003	July 11-17, 2004	Oct. 10-16, 2004
<i>Thousand workers</i>			<i>Thousand workers</i>			
Hired Workers	34	52	35	891	961	851
150 Days or More	26	35	28	626	637	605
149 Days or Less	8	17	7	265	324	246
<i>Per Week</i>			<i>Per Week</i>			
Average Hours Worked (All Hired Farm Workers)	38.5	37.2	41.2	40.2	39.2	40.5
<i>Per Hour</i>			<i>Per Hour</i>			
Average Wage Rate (All Hired Farm Workers)	\$9.59	\$8.81	\$9.59	\$9.05	\$9.04	\$9.30
By Type of Workers						
Field	\$8.79	\$7.90	\$8.84	\$8.42	\$8.34	\$8.60
Livestock	\$8.27	\$8.79	\$8.90	\$8.64	\$8.74	\$8.91

^{1/} Excludes agricultural service workers.

^{2/} Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

^{3/} Excludes Alaska

2003 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey Released

The 2003 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey provides data for every state in the nation. The survey also includes first-time statistics on water transfers, pumps powered by solar energy, expense for irrigation labor, primary method of water distribution by crops, and the percent of sales from irrigated crops.

Farms that reported horticultural crop sales of at least \$10,000 and all institutional, research, and experimental farms were excluded from the survey.

New Jersey had 807 farms that irrigated 46,679 acres of their 126,649 total acres.

- ★ Six hundred sixteen (or 76 percent) of these farms had less than 50 total acres.
- ★ Of the 126,649 total acres on irrigated farms, 89,858 are cropland, with 46,679 acres irrigated.
- ★ Seventy-two percent of the irrigated farms used a sprinkler system, 41 percent used drip trickle or low-flow micro sprinklers, 5 percent used gravity flow systems, and less than 1 percent used sub-irrigation.
- ★ Some farms that irrigated used more than one type of irrigation system.
- ★ The total acre-feet of water applied in 2003 in New Jersey was 35,229 on 46,679 acres for an average of 0.8 acre-feet per acre.
- ★ The national average acre-feet per acre was 1.7 compared to New Jersey's 0.8 acre-feet.

Individual operator information is completely confidential as required by law. NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all survey responses and publishes state, regional, and U. S. Data only, ensuring that no individual operation or grower will be identified.

The complete 2002 Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey will be available free of charge through the NASS Web site at www.usda.gov/nass/. To order a printed copy of any NASS report, call the NASS Order Desk at 800-999-6779.

New Jersey: Land Irrigated by Sprinkler System, by Type, Number of Farms and Acres, 2003 ^{1/}

Type of Sprinkler System Used	Number of Farms	Percent of Farms	Number of Acres Irrigated	Percent of Acres
Center Pivot System	54	9	4,970	14
Low Pressure <30 psi	39	7	2,463	7
Medium Pressure 30-59 psi	11	2	1,345	4
High Pressure >59 psi	6	1	1,162	3
Linear Move Tower	39	7	2,607	8
Low Pressure <30 psi	6	1	1,500	4
Medium to High Pressure ≥30 psi	33	6	1,107	3
Solid Set and Permanent	119	20	7,614	22
Low Pressure <30 psi	29	5	207	1
Medium to High Pressure ≥30 psi	90	15	7,407	21
Side Roll, Wheel Move or Other Mechanical Move	13	2	1,699	5
Big Gun or Traveller	134	23	12,899	37
Hand Move	293	50	4,867	14
Total ^{1/}	582		34,656	

^{1/} Seventy producers had more than one type of sprinkler system on their operation. Number of farms will not add to the total.

New Jersey: Energy Expense for On-Farm Pumping of Irrigation Water by Type of Energy, 2003 ^{1/}

Type of Energy	Number of Farms	Pumps Powered	Acres Irrigated by Water Source		Expenses (\$1,000)	Expenses per Acre (dollars)	
			Water from Wells	Surface Water		Water from Wells	Surface Water
Electricity	391	544	9,363	1,376	319	38.06	8.26
Natural Gas	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
LP Gas, propane, and butane	3	3	--	255	1	--	3.06
Diesel Fuel	276	717	16,768	16,074	768	31.07	19.96
Gasoline and gasohol	121	163	356	2,071	77	42.75	29.71
Total ^{2/}	706	1,427	26,487	19,776	1,164	35.30	20.83

-- means none reported.

^{1/} Expenses are calculated only from records with one source of water.

^{2/} No energy expenses for solar-powered pumps are included.

When Will New Jersey's 2004 Annual Estimates Be Available?

January 12, 2005: Barley, corn, hay, potatoes, soybean, sweet potatoes, and wheat 2004 acreage and production.

January 12, 2005: Winter wheat seeding for the 2005 crop.

January 25, 2005: Apples, blueberries, cranberries, and peaches 2004 acreage, production, season average price, and value of production.

January 24, 2005: Annual chicken and egg production for 2004.

January 28, 2005: Vegetable 2004 acreage, production, season average price, and value of production.

January 28, 2005: Cattle and calf inventory as of January 1, 2005.

January 28, 2005: Sheep and goats as of January 1, 2005.

February 15, 2005: Barley, corn, hay, potatoes, soybean, sweet potatoes, and wheat 2004 season average price and value of production.



A Sincere Thanks to Our Respondents

We would like to thank New Jersey farmers for their cooperation with the New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service. This report, and all of our reports, are made possible by the producers and agricultural businesses that respond to our surveys. Our job is to measure agriculture commodities produced in New Jersey and the nation. New Jersey's 2003 cash receipts totaled \$856 million. There is no doubt that New Jersey agriculture counts! We would like to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season.

November Farm Prices Received Index Up 0.9 Percent From Last Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 114, based on 1990-92=100, is 0.9 percent above October. The Crop Index remained unchanged from October while the Livestock Index increased 0.9 percent. Producers received higher commodity prices for tomatoes, eggs, hogs, strawberries, and grapes. Lower prices were received for lettuce, oranges, soybeans, corn, and cattle. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of dairy, cattle, and cotton offset decreased marketings of soybeans, peanuts, and potatoes. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 1.7 percent from November 2003.

The Food Commodities Index increased 2.6 percent from last month to 120. The index is unchanged from November 2003.

Prices Paid Index Down 0.7 Percent

The November Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 134 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is down 0.7 percent from October but 3.9 percent above November 2003. Lower prices in November for feeder cattle, complete feeds, feed concentrates, and feed grains, more than offset higher prices for self-propelled machinery, LP gas, feeder pigs, and nitrogen fertilizers.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	Nov 2003	Oct 2004	Nov 2004
- - Dollars - -			
Field Crops			
Barley, per bushel	2.83	2.29	2.42
Corn, per bushel	2.20	2.15	2.00
Hay, all, baled, per ton ^{1/}	81.50	89.80	86.20
Soybeans, per bushel	7.05	5.56	5.31
Fruit, fresh			
Apples, per lb ^{2/}	.297	.271	.239
Strawberries, per cwt	165.00	100.00	193.00
Vegetables, fresh			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	30.70	26.20	23.20
Lettuce, per cwt	31.70	24.10	16.30
Tomatoes, per cwt	30.50	71.10	99.00
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	93.40	86.10	84.20
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	99.90	91.00	89.10
Cows, per cwt ^{3/}	47.70	49.90	48.60
Calves, per cwt	111.00	126.00	124.00
Broilers, live, per lb ^{4/}	.370	.390	.390
Eggs, all, per dozen	1.020	.503	.612
Milk, all, per cwt ^{5/ 6/}	14.40	15.50	15.80

^{1/} Mid-month price.

^{2/} Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for CA, MI, and NY (apples only), and WA (apples, peaches, and pears). Prices as sold for other states.

^{3/} Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

^{4/} Equivalent liveweight returns to producers for most states. Includes growers and contractors.

^{5/} Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

^{6/} November 2004 fat test percent: all milk 3.77, fluid milk 3.77, and mfg grade 3.95.



To obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service website at www.nass.usda.gov/nj/ or call 1-800-328-0179.